

CLAIMS

1. A tolerance ring comprising a band of resilient material having corrugated protrusions extending either  
5 radially outwards from the band or radially inwards towards the axis of the band; and a guide portion contiguous with, and extending axially from the band, wherein the guide portion comprises at least one guide surface inclined relative to the axis of the band such  
10 that the free end of the guide portion is wider than the opening of the band when the corrugated protrusions extend radially outwards, and is narrower than the opening of the band when the corrugated protrusions extend radially inwards.

15 2. A tolerance ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle of inclination of the at least one guide surface relative to said axis is constant along the length of the guide surface.

20 3. A tolerance ring according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the guide portion extends from the whole circumference of the band.

25 4. An apparatus comprising:

A housing having a bore therein,

a shaft in the bore, and

a tolerance ring according to any one of the preceding claims in which the protrusions extend radially outwards from the band, the shaft being received in the band, and the protrusions engaging the wall of the bore.

5. An apparatus comprising:

a housing having a bore therein,

a shaft in the bore, and

a tolerance ring according to any one of the preceding claims in which the protrusions extend radially inwards from the band, the protrusions engaging the shaft and the band engaging the walls of the bore.

6. A method of assembling an apparatus comprising:

inserting a tolerance ring according to any one of the claims 1 to 3 in a bore in a housing, the protrusions of the tolerance ring extending radially outward, the protrusions engaging the wall of the bore when the tolerance ring is inserted into the bore;

inserting an end of a shaft into the guide portion of the tolerance ring; and

moving the shaft along the axis of the band into the band, so that the band engages the shaft.

7. A method of assembling an apparatus, comprising:

mounting a tolerance ring according to any one of claims 1 to 3 on a shaft, the protrusion of the tolerance ring extending radially inward to engage the shaft;

5                    inserting the guide portion of the tolerance ring into a bore in a housing; and

                  moving the shaft and tolerance ring axially into the bore such that the band engages the wall of the bore.